

## **Session 2. Pacific Networks Collaboration**

*Moderator: Amy Butros*

### **EFFORTS OF AQUATIC AND MARINE SCIENCE LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS IN THE PHILIPPINES TOWARDS PROMOTING COLLABORATION IN THE AREAS OF NETWORKING, COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

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#### **Abstract:**

Non-profit organizations, private and government institutions often work together in a collaboration. Usually, collaboration strategies are described as networking, coordinating, or cooperating. Although the use of these terms is often confusing, this paper suggests definitions of these three strategies to help clarify the most appropriate use of each in particular settings. Collaboration is defined as organizing for joint action by individuals, organizations, and processes. It is a process through which parties that see different aspects of a problem can constructively explore their differences and search for solutions that go beyond their own limited vision of what is possible (Gray, 1989). At present, most libraries are using different strategies. Some are doing networking in which low levels of communication and no common goals exist. In others organizational involvement rather than networking facilitates exchange of information and resources for mutual benefit to achieve a common purpose. Lastly, some are developing mutual understandings to help each other and potentially combine with other institutions to build collections through information sharing, delivery services, union catalogues, bibliographies, digital libraries, sharing of knowledge through consultancy and helping one another through fund sharing. They need written agreements to unify their shared goals and commitments and to lead to collaborative partnerships; coordination and cooperation are essential in collaborating. Since collaboration is usually encouraged because it delivers greater productivity, it can be a powerful alternative to conventional mechanisms for effecting change. The value of collaboration, therefore, is that it affords individuals the opportunity to move beyond the functional aspects of coordination, cooperation and networking. Through creating a new, shared knowledge and understanding, they can achieve more together than can a collection of individuals.

**Keywords:** Collaboration, libraries.

#### **References:**

Gray, B. 1989. *Collaborating: Finding Common Ground for Multiparty Problems*. San Francisco CA: Jossey-Bass Publishers.